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SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W DANA BANKS
DAKAR FOR FAS ROBERT HANSON
LONDON FOR PETER LORD

E.O.12958:N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [BN](#)

SUBJECT: YAYI TO ATTEND FAO FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT

REF: (A) COTONOU 298 (B) USDA FAS 689508

11. On May 25 the GOB announced that President Yayi will lead Benin's delegation to the FAO's High Level Conference on World Food Security (June 3-5, 2008). This changes Embassy reporting in Ref A that the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fishing, Roger Dovonou would lead the delegation. Eusebe Agbangla, the Director of Americas at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the embassy that the delegation will still include Dovonou as well as Pascal Irene Koupaki, the Minister of State for Economic Forecasting, Development and the Evaluation of Public Action, and Moussa Okanla, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The GOB has not requested bilateral meetings.

12. Bouco Imorou Aly, the Secretary General at the Ministry of Agriculture advised the Embassy that President Yayi would raise issues related to the impact of climate on food safety. He also added that Yayi would share with the summit's participants the GOB's efforts to address the food crisis. President Yayi will seek support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Program (WFP), to assist in implementing the GOB's measures against the food crisis, according to Aly.

BOUSTANI